

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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63

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 NEA-06 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

/057 W

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R 131850Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2620

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08126

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IN

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEW OF INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH VISITING MADRAS CONGEN PALMER JULY 11, FCO'S CHALMERS SAID BRITISH ARE CONCERNED OVER LACK OF IMPROVEMENT IN IRAN-INDIAN RELATIONS. HE SAID PAKISTANIS ARE OBVIOUSLY DOING THEIR BEST TO KEEP RELATIONS BAD FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES (SEE SEPTTEL). HOWEVER, RELATIVELY JUNIOR INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN ALSO CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. HE IS HARDLY A MATCH FOR HIS EXPERIENCED, ASTUTE PAKISTANI RIVAL.

2. CHALMERS WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY PALMER'S COMMENT THAT INDIANS SUCH AS CHIB TELL US THEY HAVE REALLY TRIED. A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION THAT HAD CROSSED HIS MIND, CHALMERS SAID, WAS INITIATION OF PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PM GANDHI AND THE SHAH, WHO REALLY ENJOYS THAT SORT OF THING. CHALMERS WAS NOT CLEAR ON WHETHER OR NOT THAT SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE TO INDIANS AND/OR IRANIANS.

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